940.3772
W 453 s

# HISTORY

# OF

# WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

# IN THE

# WORLD WAR

compiled

by

CHARLES E. STURGIS

CONTENTS

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

REPORT OF THE WAR WORK DONE BY THE WOMAN'S SECTION, COUNTY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

RED CROSS

Y.M.C.A. CONFERENCE AND UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN

FOOD ADMINISTRATION

WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

THE PART THE RURAL SCHOOLS PLAYED IN THE WORLD WAR

103971
April 30, 1925

# WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

## Organization.

At the suggestion of the Council of National Defense, Governor Jame P. Goodrich appointed the Indiana State Council of Defense, which met in the City of Indianapolis, on May 19, 1917, for the purpose of organization.

One of the first acts of the Indiana State Council of Defense was to secure from the judges of the circuit courts the nomination of a Council of Defense for each county, to consist of seven members, one of whom should be a woman, and another a representative of labor.

In May, 1917, Hon. Wm. H. Eichhorn, judge of the Wells circuit court, appointed the Wells County Council of Defense, consisting of the following members:

Albert B. Cline, chairman, Bluffton, Indiana.

Mrs. Abram Simmons, Bluffton, Indiana.

James B. Clark, representative of labor, Bluffton, Indiana.

Dr. Frank W. Garrett, Liberty Center, Indiana.

Samuel Gehrett, Keystone, Indiana.

James M. Waid, Uniondale, Indiana.

Albert A. Melching, Ossian, Indiana.

At the first meeting, Albert A. Melching was elected secretary of the Council of Defense.

Albert B. Cline, chairman, on account of press of his own personal business, resigned in August, 1917, and on September 1st, 1917, appointed Charles E. Sturgis, Bluffton, Indiana, chairman of Wells County Council of Defense.

October 11th, 1917, Albert A. Melching tendered his resignation and on January 12th 1918, his resignation was accepted and William A. Patton, Bluffton, Indiana, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Following his appointment, Mr. Patton was elected secretary.

As thus constituted the Wells County Council of Defense continued until dissolved by order of the State Council of Defense.

Immediately following its creation, the Wells County Council of Defense, under the direction of the State Council, proceeded to carry out the purposes of its organization and a number of committees were appointed and duties assigned them.

On September 28th, 1917, by direction of the State Council of Defense, a meeting was held in the City of Bluffton for the purpose of effecting a complete organization of the county for effective war work. Every member of the County Council of Defense and a large number of citizens of the county were present at this meeting. An orgaization team consisting of Fred I. King, Wabash, Judge John W. Eggeman, Fort Wayne, Herman Wilkie, Elwood, and Byron Summers, Fort Wayne, representing the State Council, was present and explainedthe purpose and outlined the plan of organization. This organization team aroused so much interest and enthusiasm that there was a demand that the team return to the city at some date in the near future and deliver patriotic addresses. Accordingly, the following week Judge Eggeman and Herman Wilkie returned and addressed an audience which filled the court room to overflowing. From the manner in which these addresses were received, it at once became apparent that the people of Wells county were anxious to do all in their power for the winning of the war.

The County Council of Defense completed its organization by appointing the following general committees:

Publicity:

Mrs. Charles C. Deam, Bluffton, Indiana.
Orin Craven, " "
George Rinehart, " "

Sanitation and medicine:

Dr. S. A. Shoemaker, " "
Dr. Asa W. Brown, " "
Dr. Fred A. Metts, " "

Food Supply and Distribution:

Harry Gray, County Agent, Bluffton, Indiana.

Home Military Affairs:

W. W. Weisell, Bluffton, Indiana.
Fred J. Tangeman, " "
Arla A. Hammond, " "
Frank G. Thompson, " "
Frank W. Gordon, " "

Disloyalty and Protection,

J. A. Johnston, " "

Transportation:

C. A. Breece, " "

Public Speaking;

Charles E. Sturgis, " "

Four-Minute-Men:

Charles G. Dailey, " "

Women's Section:

Mrs. Abram Simmons, " "

Public Morals:

Supt. P. A. Allen, " "

Correspondence with Soldiers:

Supt. P. A. Allen, " "

Censor Solicitation of Funds:

George L. Arnold, " "
Wm. S. Smith, " "
Alfred G. Saurer, " "

Highway Motor Routes:

Charles E, Sturgis, " "
Thomas C. Guldin, " "
Will H. Berling, " "
Harry Gray, " "
John E. Markley, " "
John J. Miller, " "

Americanization of Foreigners:

A. W. Hamilton, Bluffton, Indiana.

Dr. E. D. Poffenberger, Ossian, Indiana

Rev. W. H. Schroer, Vera Cruz, Indiana,

Threshing Regulations:

Harry Gray, Bluffton, Indiana.

Samuel Kreigh, Ossian, Indiana.

William A. Kunkel, Bluffton, Indiana.

Labor:

James B. Clark, " "

Mrs. Abram Simmons, " "

United States Boys' Working Reserve:

J. F. Meyers, Bluffton, Indiana.

F. G. Thompson, " "

United States Workingmens' Reserve:

Charles W. Decker, Bluffton, Indiana.

County and City War Gardens:

Rev. E. W. Kruse, Bluffton, Indiana.

Dillom Myers, " "

Mayor F. P. Hunt, " "

Prof. P. A. Allen, " "

Harry Gray, " "

Legal Advice to Soldiers:

Charles E. Sturgis, " "

Edwin C. Vaughn,

Frank W. Gordon.

Upon the recommendation of Judge Sturgis, as chairman of the County Council of Defense, William A. Kunkel was appointed county food director; John J. Miller was appointed county fuel director; and John C. Moynihan was appointed county agent of Federal Explosive Inspector for Indiana. Mr. Kunkel resigned as county food director July 23, 1918, and Will H. Berling, Bluffton, Indiana, was appointed as his successor.

## Township Councils of Defense.

The County Council of Defense organized a Township Council of Defense, consisting of eleven members three of whom were women, in each of the nine townships of the county. The names and addresses of these members of Township Councils are as follows:

Jackson township:

David R. Hardman, Warren, Indiana, RR 2, Chairman.
H. C. Mannering, Warren, RR 5.
Chancey Elwood, Van Buren, Indiana
B. F. Baker, Warren RR 5, secretary.
O. R. Williams, Montpelier, Indiana, RR 2.
Jas. B. Griffith, Van Buren, RR 1.
Charles Hyde, Warren, RR 5.
Mack Dawson, Montpelier RR 10
Mrs. Cary Runkle, Warren, RR. 5.
Mrs. Lewis Bilbee, Montpelier RR 2.
Mrs. W. S. Click, Warren RR 5.

Chester township:

Ed Cassell, Keystone, Indiana, chairman.
William E. Showalter, Keystone, secretary.
W. R. Farlow, Poneto.
W. A. Huffman, Keystone,
Levi Lowery, Keystone.
Lawrence Perry, Montpelier, RR 3.
Herschel Gilbert, Montpelier.
Samuel E. Teagle, Keystone.
Mrs. Charles H. Markley, Keystone.
Mrs. Herman Goodin, Montpelier, RR 11.
Mrs. Flo Starr, Poneto, RR 1.

Liberty township:

A. T. Merriman, Liberty Center, chairman.

Charles Haughton, Bluffton.

Steve Vickery, Liberty Center.

D. H. Coolman, Markle RR 2.

Byron Tarr, Liberty Center.

Charles Gavin, Bluffton.

Olen Rittenhouse, Liberty Center.

Rufus B. Clark, Liberty Center.

Mrs. F. C. Garrett, Liberty Center.

Mrs. H. B. Kasler, Liberty Center.

Mrs. Ira Yelton, Liberty Center.

Rockcreek township:

Daniel W. Lesh, Bluffton RR 9, Chairman.

Joshua Brickley, Uniondale.

Charles E. Roe, Markle.

W. L. Highlen, Markle.

John H. Hogg, Bluffton, RR 9.

M. J. Park, Bluffton RR 9.

D. V. Lamm, Bluffton RR 3.

D. N. Decker, Bluffton RR 3.

Mrs. Clinton Kain, Uniondale.

Mrs. H. A. Lesh, Bluffton RR 9.

Miss Merle Highlen, Markle.

Union township:

W. P. Scott, Markle, Chairman.

D, B. Wickliff, Ossian RR 4

Ed Robinson, Markle RR 3.

Valdo Salter, Zanesville.

J. V. Kohr, Markle.

William Ziegler, Markle.
Lee H. Ormsby, Uniondale.
Irel Pence, Markle.
Mrs. Ed Robinson, Markle.
Mrs. Irel Pence, Markle,
Mrs. H. H. Neff, Markle.

Nottingham Township:

W. H. Settle, Geneva RR 1, Chairman:

J. D. French, Bluffton, RR 2.

A. G. Reynolds, Bluffton, RR 2.

Lewis A. Nutter, Bluffton RR 7.

Abe Haines, Bluffton RR 7

Jesse Herman, Keystone.

Frank Elston, Petroleum.

John Thomas, Geneva RR 4

Mrs. Cyrus Dickason, Petroleum.

Mrs. G. B. Morris, Petroleum.

Mrs. Joseph Elston, Petroleum.

Harrison township.

E. C. Huffman, Bluffton RR 6. Chairman.

David Klopfenstein. Bluffton RR 4.

Lee Markley, Bluffton RR 6.

Milo Lesh, Bluffton, RR 3.

Samuel Henley, Bluffton RR 8.

Fred Carnall, Bluffton, RR 2.

Noble C. Blocher, Bluffton 2.

Thomas Shoup, Bluffton RR 6.

Mrs. M. W. McClain, Vera Cruz, Indiana.

Miss Cora Neff, Bluffton, RR. 7.

Miss Belle Schrock, Bluffton.

Lancaster township.

T. J. Brickley, Bluffton RR 9. chairman.

Herman Schwarz, Bluffton RR 5.

J. D. Porter, Craigville.

N. J. Kleinknight, Craigville.

Ben Nash, Bluffton RR. 5.
Lorenzo B. Smith, Bluffton RR 5.
Frank Biberstine, Bluffton RR 5.
Mrs. Dwight Williamson, Bluffton.
Mrs. Jacob Nordyke, Bluffton,
Miss Marie Brickley, Bluffton RR 9.

Jefferson township:

Dr. E. D. Poffenberger, Ossian, chairman.

Andy Neireiter, Ossian, RR 3.

Arthur Lechner, Ossian RR 3.

Orson Herman, Ossian RR 4.

Charles M. Deam, Uniondale RR 1.

Ed Jones, Ossian RR 2

Irvin Wasson, Toesin.

John F. Stine, Craigville.

Mrs. Carl Wilson, Ossian.

Mrs. Ed Stine, Ossian.

Mrs. Harold Mahnensmith, Ossian.

The membership of each Township Council of Defense was so selected that each school district of the township was represented by at least one member.

These Township Councils did most efficient work in arousing patriotic efforts, stimulating increased food production and food conservation, and assisting in all drives and campaigns for the collection of funds and the sale of War Saving Stamps and Liberty Bonds. They were most useful and effective in giving publicity to the various home war measures and policies, and by their own energy held the active and enthusiastic support and assistance of the citizens of their respective townships.

The County Council of Defense at all times had the co-operation of the Board of Commissioners and County Council of Wells County.

The Board of Commissioners tendered the use of commodious and convenient rooms in the court house for headquarters. On January 10, 1918, the County Council of Defense opened public headquarters in the court house in the city of Bluffton. Miss Maude Worley was placed in charge as secretary, in which capacity she continued until the dissolution of the Council of Defense.

The County Council appropriated for the use of the County Council of Defense $200.00 for the months of November and December, 1917; $3750.00 for the year 1918; and $3750.00 for the year 1919.

The expenditures of the County Council of Defense from these funds were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| December, 1917, | $ 67.15 |
| February, 1918, | 69.37 |
| March, 1918, | 31.50 |
| April, 1918, | 24.03 |
| May, 1918, | 54.91 |
| June, 1918, | 71.30 |
| July, 1918, | 104.42 |
| August, 1918, | 90.95 |
| September, 1918, | 98.10 |
| October, 1918, | 56.46 |
| November, 1918, | 56.12 |
| December, 1918, | 196.23 |
| Total, | 920.54 |

No other part of the above appropriations was drawn or expended by the County Council of Defense. All of above expenditures were drawn upon verified bills duly presented to and allowed by the Board of County Commissioners, and warrants issued therefor by the County Auditor.

No other appropriations were made for war work or for Red Cross funds, and no county bonds were issued or levies made for war work or war funds.

The most notable single event held under the direction of the Wells County Council of Defense was the County War Conference. The State Council of Defense fixed January 31, 1918, as the date for this conference. The first meeting for organization and preparation was held at head quarters in the court house in Bluffton January 21st. Fred E. Barrett, of Indianapolis, as a representative of the State Council was present and over 100 citizens of the city and county attended and were informed as to the purposes of the proposed war conference. As a result of this organization meeting, a general executive committee was appointed consisting of George L. Saunders, William A. Kunkel, Jr., and William R. Barr. This committee performed its duties so throughly and attentively that the County War Conference of January 31st, 1918, was the most memorable patriotic event ever held in the county.

The following was the printed program for the day:

Conference of Educational Committee of County Council of Defense, Small Court Room, 10 a. m. County Superintendent Huyette, Chairman.

Purpose of the Meeting, . . . . . by A. R. Huyette.

Address, . . . . . A. B. Wright.

Organization for Future School House Meetings. Discussion of Problems in Various Parts of County.

Red Cross Sectional Meeting, Court Room, 10 a. m. Dr. McKay, Chairman.

Boys' Working Reserve, . . . . . F. H. Myers, director.

Red Cross in the War, . . . . . E, C, Foster.

Organization Work.

Women's Section, Gaiety Theater, 10 a. m., Mrs. Abram Simmons, chairman.

Address, . . . . . Mrs. Olaf Guldin.

Discussion and Organization by Local Members.

Education and War meeting, Gaiety Theater, 2 p. m. P. A. Allen, Chairman.

Music, . . . . . Miss Mills, leader.

U. S. Boys Working Reserve, . . . . Ross Lockridge.

War Saving and Thrift Stamps, . . A. B. Wright.

Educational Section, . . . . . F. S. Bogardus.

Organization for Future Work in City.

Conservation and War Meeting, Court Room, 2. p. m. W. A. Kunkel, Chairman.

Address, "Red Cross", . . . . . E. C. Foster.

Address,"Food", . . . . . Julius Lincoln.

Address, . . . . . .Mrs. Olaf Guildin.

Address, . . . . . .Ernest Thornburg, Pres. Ind. Corn Growers' Assn.

Conservation, . . . . . F. W. Gordon.

Production, - . . . . . .Harry Gray, county agent.

Labor, . . . . . .Rev. Kruse.

Mass Meeting, Grand Opera House, 7:30 p. m., County Chairman Council of Defense, Judge Sturgis, chairman.

Music, . . . . . Savage Orchestra.

Patriotic Songs, . . . .Chorus Fifty Voices, H. H. Deam, leader.

Patriotic Address, . . . . . Julius Lincoln.

Solo, . . . . . .Mrs. Marxmiller.

Patriotic Address, . . . .Lieut. Mac Quarries, of English Royal Guards.

Remarks on Work of Day and Future Organization, Judge Sturgis.

"Star Spangled Banner," . . . . .Chorus and Orchestra.

The afternoon meeting at the court room was so largely attended that an overflow meeting was held at the Grand Opera House for the accommodation of more than four hundred people who could not get in the court room.

The attendance for the evening mass meeting was so great that an overflow meeting which crowded the Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in the city, was held for those who could not get in the opera house. As a result three simultaneous meetings were held in the forenoon, three in the afternoon and two at night.

The speakers assigned for the occasion by the State Council were eloquent and able, and the audiences at all meetings were most responsive and enthusiastic.

Perhaps no better description of the occasion, its apparent results, and the spirit of our citizens can be given than the following quotations form our local newspapers published at the time:

"WAR CONFERENCE CROWDS NECESSITATE OVERFLOW MEETINGS."

"Wells County People Hear Stirring Patriotic Speeches on War Aims of Government."

"There was war every where,in Bluffton today. War thrift, War saving, how to win the war, war on profit, everything but actual warfare. Every phase of the war was talked over and explained to the people by men who knew, and the people were told of how best they could help in the mighty struggle by speakers sent out by the state bureau for this purpose.

"The sectional conference in this great country-wide discussion were well attended, and the people were aroused to the fullest sense when the fact was brought home to them of the seriousness, and of the important part each man, woman and child must take in it.

"With two great mass meetings last night- one in the Grand opera house, the other in the First Baptist church- closed the greatest day Bluffton has ever known. While the roads were impassable for Wells county's nine hundred automobiles, farmers came to town from all over the county in sleds and sleighs, mounting drifts of snow and facing the bitter cold to take part in Wells county's first war conference.

"From the very first meetings in the morning until the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" late at nightthe day was an ovation to the cause of democracy and a cementing of the ties between the boys at the front and the folks back home that will drive many nails in the coffin of the kaiser.

"The sectional meetings were far more than expected, and it became necessary to open the opera house for an overflow meeting. Dr. Lincoln remarked that this best anything he had ever encountered, and he has been over a vast territory.

"The Gaiety theater and the court room were crowded in the afternoon and three hundred people were turned to the opera house. The speeches were well received and were interesting in a large degree.

"At the evening opera house meeting the Savage orchestra played a number of selections that were pleasing. The big chorus, led by H. H. Deam, made the patriotic songs a delight, and the uniforms of the surgical dressings ladies added a military spice to the scene upon the stage.

"Miss Mills led the singing at the Baptist church, they singing

the same songs that were used at the opera house.

"In one of the greatest, if not the greatest, war address ever delivered in this city, Julius Lincoln, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, of Jamestown, N. Y., and a member of the United States Food Administration's Commission to France, instilled into his hearers at the opera house and the Baptist church last evening a patriotism and a greater desire to do their war duties than ever before. In silence the crowds heard of the awful savagery of the Germans and then understood fully why war on the part of America was declared.

"The second patriotic address of the evening was given by Lieutenant Rector MacQuarries, of the British Royal Field Artilery, who was among the "first 100,00" to go across to stop the German hordes in march upon Paris. Lieut. MacQuarries has been sent to this country by the British government and has been mostly in Pennsylvania since the early summer, and this is his first trip to the middle west. Lieutenant MacQuarries made a hit with witty remarks and heart-searching statements.

"In summing up a great series of meetings like those of yesterday, it would be unjust to overlook many others than those who were booked as the headliners. Some of our own men did themselves proud, and to name them would be to overlook some one of them probably who should have even more credit than any other, but Dr. McKay handled his morning meeting in the court room very acceptably, and in that meeting our own Frank Myers made a very interesting and instructive talk on "Boys' Working Reserve," showing that he not only had his subject well in mind, but that he could tell it. Judge Eichhorn made a spirited talk at that meeting.

"P. A. Allen and A. R. Huyette had charge of the two sessions under the educational head, and they were delighted with the success of meetings. Teachers were here from each section of the county.

"W. A. Kunkel conducted a corking meeting in the court house in the afternoon, and had the audience in good humor all the way. In that meeting Frank Gordon, Harry Gray and the chairman himself made talks that were on a par with those of the out-of town- contingent.

Abram Simmons had charge of the opera house overflow meeting in the afternoon, and had an interesting meeting. Judge Eichhorn carried on the night meeting at the Baptist church in an acceptable manner.

"Judge Sturgis, as chairman of the night meeting in the opera house, did himself and his cause proud in summing up the days events, and what was the purpose of the council of defense. The judge made good with the audience. The whole day was one round of successes, and the people of Wells county are awake. "

Wells county was among the first to perfect an organization of the men holding deferred classification under the Selective Service system. In response to a call by the chairman of the county council of defense, a meeting was held in the court room in the city of Bluffton on the evening of April 16th, 1918, The court room was jammed to the doors and hallways by the spirited lot of young men, anxious to do their part. The meeting was addressed by Earl Crawford, of Milton, Indiana, secretary, and Dr. Miles F. Porter, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, chairman, of the District Conscription Board, and by Judge Sturgis, who presided as chairman of thev meeting. As the speakers struck a patriotic vein the applause was deafening.

A county organization was made under the name of "Wells County Registered Men's Association." County officers were selected by open vote, as follows:

Chairman, Harry Gray, county agricultural agent.

Vice chairman, Vern T. Gordon.

Secretary-treasurer, Frank Babcock.

Chairman Gray immediately appointed the following township chairmen:

Union township, Irel V. Pence.

Rockcreek township, George R. Farling.

Lancaster township, Herman Schwarz.

Chester township, Glenn Maddux.

Liberty township, Hugh McElhaney.

Jackson township, Paul Runkle.

Harrison township, Alfred Rudy.

Nottingham township, Frank Elston.

Jefferson township, Burr I. Simmerman.

Bluffton, F. G. Thompson.

On the follpwing Monday evening an organization meeting was held in each township, at which a full corps of township officers and committees were selected.

All of these organizations, both county and township, wre most enthusiastic and effective, and they rendered most efficient service in promoting all war activities, measures, and drives for the collection of funds and sale of Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps. They at all times assisted the Council of Defense in its work,

Wells county is a rich agricultural community. Its citizens are educated and progressive. Its farms are well improved, well cultivated and very productive. Churches and fraternal organizations are numerous. There are but few foreign born among its population. The loyalty and patriotism of its citizens was almost universal. It is true there were a few instances of anti-loyalty, due in large measure to pro-Germanism or partizan prejudice. But these case were few and easily controlled. In most instances those who offended are now heartily penitent.

On account of the general helpfulness of our citizens it was a pleasure to serve as chairman of the county council of defense. All of our citizens, whether the call was made upon them generall or as individuals, responded nobly and put forth their best efforts to promote the various war activities and measures. Every meeting, and they were numerous, throughout the county was well attended; and all were anxious to do their full share, whether it was production of food, saving of food, conservation of fuel, donation to Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., or United War Work funds, purchase of Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps, or the spreading of patriotic sentiment and the practicing of patriotic endeavor.

Especial praise is due the ministers of the churches and the members of the legal profession for the numerous patriotic sermons and addresses delivered throughout the county.

It can be truthfully said that the whole people of the county did its whole duty toward the winning of the ultimate victory for liberty and humanity.

Charles E. Slungis
Chairman Wells County Council of Defense.

REPORT OF THE WAR WORK DONE BY THE
WOMAN'S SECTION IN WELLS COUNTY INDIANA.

In accordance with the plan for the organization of county counsels of defense, in Indiana, Hon. W. H. Eichhorn, judge of the circuit court of Wells County, appointed Mrs. E. B. Williamson as chairman of the woman's section. She resigned the latter part of June, 1917, and on July 19th, Mrs. Abram Simmons was appointed as her successor.

The women of the county were organized, according to the plan submitted by the woman's section of the State Counsel of Defense.

The following women were selected as county chairman of the various departments:

Mrs. Frank Ashbaucher ----Enrollment & Woman's Service
Mrs. A. A. Waugh ---------Food Production
Mrs. J. E.Reynolds -------Home Economics
Mrs. L. W.Dailey ---------Food Administration
Mrs. Jennie Justus -------Child Welfare & Women in Industry
Mrs. C. C. Deam ----------Liberty Loan
Mrs. Clara Springstead ---Home & Foreign Relief & Maintaining (Existing Social Service Agencies)
Mrs. W. A. Patten---------Educational Propaganda
Mrs. D.A. Walmer ---------Health and recreation
Mrs. Frank Engeler--------Publicity

In order to get the work done efficiently and promptly, it was deemed advisable to appoint a chairman of women's work in each township, she to have supervision of all war work, her term of office to last the duration of the war

The following women were appointed:

Liberty Township----Mrs. F. C. Garrett
Harrison Township --Mrs. M. W.McClain

Nottingham Township -----Mrs. Cyrus Dickason

Jackson-Township --------Mrs. Cary Runkle

Chester Township --------Mrs. Chas. H. Markley

Rockcreek Township ------Mrs. Clint Kain

Lancaster Township ------Mrs. Chas. Pierce

Union Township ----------Mrs. Ed. Robinson

Jefferson Township ------Mrs. Carl Wilson

Each township chairman organized her territory and was ready to cooperate and carry out the instructions received from time to time from the county chairman.

At the request of the State chairman, Mrs. Anne Studabaker Carlisle and the State chairman of 14 minute women, Julia C. Henderson, the following 14 minute women were appointed:

Mrs. Chas. C. Deam

Mrs. W. H. Eichhorn

Mrs. Wm. Patten

Mrs. W. T.Arnold

Mrs. J. E.Reynolds

Mrs. Dwight Williamson

Mrs. Frank Engeler

Mrs. Ida Ashbaucher

Nannie W. Jayne.

These women were always ready to respond to all calls, whether to large or small audiences, and the result of their efforts can not be over estimated by giving publicity to those things to which the attention of the public needed to be called.

The county chairman of the various departments in Wells County were ready to do their full duty and made an honest effort to carry on the work according to the plans received from the State chairmen from time to time.

Through the efforts of the registration committee 4925 women registered for war service.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jennie Justus, chairman of the child welfare committee, 2000 children under six years of age were examined. The doctors and patriotic women were very generous with their services. Every physician in the county assisted in this work.

Realizing that food was an important factor in winning the war and being convinced of the necessity of conserving and producing all the food possible, the chairman of the home economics, food conservation and food production departments were very diligent in keeping these subjects constantly before the people, using both press and verbal messages. Everything possible was done to help advance the patriotic use of food. Canning demonstrations were held, and many leaflets and cook books distributed in many places. The leaflets were sent to the homes through the school children.

Wells County cooperated in the plan to organize the women who had signed the membership pledge card of the U.S. Food Administration into Food Clubs, according to the plan submitted by the Federal Food Administrator.

Mrs. Abram Simmons was appointed county Food Club President, and secured the following women to assume the office of township Food Club Presidents:

Jefferson ----------Mrs. J. G. Stirling
Union ----------Miss Hattie Lipkey
Rockcreek ----------Mrs. O. D. Eichhorn
Lancaster
Nottingham ----------Mrs. Cyrus Dickason
Chester----------Mrs. Fred Wort
Jackson ----------Miss Bertha Jones
Liberty ----------Mrs. Walter Garrett
Harrison ----------Mrs. A. A.Waugh

There were food clubs organized in every township, and in the City of Bluffton the three parent teacher clubs were utilized to assume this work. Monthly meetings were held and the instructions sent out by Dr. Barnard, Federal Food Administrator for Indiana, were carried out as nearly as possible.

The people of the county were generally speaking very loyal in supporting the programme mapped out for them observing meatless and wheatless days, using substitutes where ever possible, and almost every family in the city as well as in the country planted a war garden.

The first and second Liberty Loan drives were handled by the men and banks of Wells County, but when plans for the third drive were being matured, the women were requested to cooperate and they responded. Mrs. Chas. Deam, Chairman of the Woman's Liberty Loan Committee in Wells County, utilized the organization already formed in the townships and appointed Mrs. W. A. Patten to take charge of the work in the city of Bluffton. The districts were divided and helpers secured for every city block and for every square mile in the country.

Inexperienced though they were in dinancial matters, their patriotism gave them courage and they sold one fourth of the county's quota, which had been allotted as the women's share.

When it became necessary to launch a fourth liberty loan drive, acting upon the suggestion of the State L. L. Chairman, it was decided to not set any definite quota for the women workers. It was thought that more could be accomplished by allowing the local men and women workers to cooperate and divide the work as they saw best, and credit the women with half the quota raised. The plans proved successful and due

credit was given the women for their earnest and industrious efforts which so aided in the patriotic work.

On account of unavoidable circumstances, it was necessary to appoint Mrs. Herschel Gilbert to succeed Mrs. Chas. Markley of Chester Township, Miss Lela Studabaker to succeed Mrs. M. W.McClain of Harrison Township, Mrs. Carl Wilson to succeed Miss Ida Kreigh of Jefferson Township, and Mrs. Dwight Williamson to succeed Mrs. Chas. Pierce of Lancaster Township.

Because of sickness the County L. L. Chairman was not able to take charge of the Victory Loan and Mrs. Abram Simmons assumed the responsibility. Mrs. Simmons found it necessary to appoint a new chairman for Harrison and Lancaster Townships. She appointed Miss Cora Neff of Harrison and Mrs. Eva Kleinknight of Lancaster.

Every township had been reorganized and the women were all ready to assume their share of the work, when the banks ammounced their decision to take the County's quota and let the people come to them for their bonds.

While the women of Wells County were not able to shoulder guns, they stood shoulder to shoulder with the men in all war work, willing and anxious to do their bit for their country.

Mrs Abram Simmons

## & THE WELLS COUNTY RED CROSS.

The exigencies of the great Eurpoean War called the Wells County Red Cross into exsistence. Along with the other counties of the State of Indiana, Wells yeilded to the general movement of the country to provide the soldiers such home comforts as they could not receive from the government and to provide nursing to sick and wounded soldiers supplementary to that provided by the Medicial Department of the United States Army.

No claim or originality in work or in aim is put forth by the Wells County Chapter. It followed the path marked out for all Chapters by the American National Red Cross and reported to the Lake Division Headquarters of Cleveland, Ohio.

The original impulse directed toward the organization of the Chapter came from a group of people who early in the war felt the need of bringing the city of Bluffton into line with the great nation wide movement which was at that time sweeping the country. Just when and where this group of people first met and what they did can not be determined from any exsisting records but the instrument granting authority to form a Chapter bears the date of April 12, 1917, the week following the declaration of war.

The temporary committee on organization was composed of Mrs Pearl Snyder, Chairman, MissFlorence Walmer Secretary, Dr, Lpuis Severin, W. R. Barr, W. S. Smith, Charles E. Sturgis, Dr. L. H. Cock, Mrs Festus Rhoton, Mrs H. B. Starr and Mrs Charlotte Herbine-Mock.

After receiving authority to organize a Chapter in Bluffton, with Wells County as its jurisdiction from the Central Division whose headquarters at that time were at Chicago, the committee on organization proceeded to appoint a sub committee on thenominati on of Chapter officers. The oldest exsisting record of Chapter activities comprise theminuets of this committee on nomination of officers,

The committee meeting was held at the home of Mrs Pearl Snyder, the chairman of the committee on Temporary organization. Theof fic ers selected were Rev, O. R. McKay, Chairman, Charles E. Sturgis, Vice Chairman, Miss Blanche Karns, Secretary, W. W. Rogers Treasurer. In due time these were elected to the position indicated.

At a later meeting of the committee on organization a Board of Directors was elected, composed of R. W. Stine, Fred Bell, W. E. Simons, Fred Tangeman, W. S. Smith, M. K. Williamson, A. B. Cline, Charles Dailey, George Saunders, W. R. Barr, B. A. Batson, and Dr, Earl Sturgis.

For the facilitation of business an Executive Committee was elected from the Directorate consisting of R. W. Stine, George Saunders, W. R. Barr, A. B. Cline and M. K. Williamson. Later Mrs A. B. Cline was added to this committee at the request of Lake Division Headquarters for the reason that she had been put in charge of all knitting work of the Chapter.

With the election of these officials the chapter organization became a fact, bearing at the recommendation of the Lake Division Headquarters the name WELLS COUNTY RED CROSS and having the territory of WELLS COUNTY as its jurisdiction.

Its by laws were furnished for the Chapter by the Headquarters, modified to suit local conditions. The success of a work such as was outlined by the National Society could only be guaranteed by a large abd representative membership from the entire county.

The task of securing members was entrusted to a committee of which B. A. Batson the Bluffton Post Master was chairman. Township Committies were appointed to canvas the county and soon the number of members increased to hundreds and later to thousands. Before the cose of the war the number exceeded six thousand.

The first place used for meetings and work was the basemment rooms of the Bliss Hotel. These rooms proved inadquate and fr a time the office was changed to North Main St,. The growth of the work soon rendered this building impracticable and the Chapter accepted a generous offer of the Studabaker Bank of a suite of rooms on the second floor of its building, free of barge. These rooms became the permanent headquarters of the Chapter but proved inadequate for all its work. Upon the organization of the Surgical Dressings work rooms were offered by the Wells County Bank on the second floor of its building. Here under the direction of Mrs R. K. Souder and a valuable and skillful corps of workers trained for the work, great quantities of surgical dressings were prepared and sent to the front.

The department of Hospital Supplies was directed by first by Mrs Gibson and later by Mrs Dr, Hatfield. It is impossible to give the names of all the women of Bluffton who worked and conducted groups of workers in the city and country. They proved themselves true patriots and loyal friends of the soldiers by their unremitting toil.

Work was done in the Red Cross Rooms, also in churches, and lodge rooms, as well as in the homes of the women. Miss Ethel Sprague was chosen office secretary and has continued in this position to the present time(1919). She has rendered valuable assistance both in the office and in the work room and is now an authority on the details of Red Cross work.

Dr, L. H. Cook was made head of the First Aid work and with the aid or other physicians conducted a class which completed a course of training in first aid to the injured.

A department of Home Service was organized, and Theodore Harsh a Bluffton attorney was placed at its head. Hon, John W. Decker was assigned the work of Secretary for missing men.

As the needs of the Army and their families increased new activities and workers were added to the organixation. As the war progressed the appreciation of Red Cross work deepened in the minds of Wells County people and requests began to come to the Chapter to to organize branches in various centers where the women could work without the need of going to Bluffton.

The Executive committee authorized the Chairman to organize Branches in all places where the local interest warranted a permanent work,

Branches were organized at the following places,

TOCSIN, Dec, 7, 1917, Chairman Mrs J. C. Gallivan, Secy, Mrs Theo, Werling.

OSSIAN. Dec, 18, 1917, Chairman Mrs Felix Summers,
Secretary, Mrs O. A. Blevins,

PONETO. Feb, 11, 1918, Chairman Mrs Jennie Stine,
Secretary, Mrs Winnifred Kirkwood,

PETROLEUM. 13, 1918
Chairman, Mrs Dr, G. B.Morris,
Secretary, Miss Alice Mummert,

ZANESVILLE, March 7, 1918, Chairman, Mrs Almissie McBride,
Secretary, Mrs Alice Taylor.

KEYSTONE, May 14, 1918
Chairman, Mrs C. H. Markley,
Secretary, Mrs A. E. Brubaker.

UNIONDALE. June 11, 1918 Chairman, Mrs F. J. Robins,
Secretary, Mrs C. H. Kain,

KINGSLAND. Sept, 17, 1918 Chairman, Mrs J Abrams,
Secretary, Mrs W. W. Burnett,

DILLMAN Nov, 20, 1918, Chairman Mrs J. W. H. Farr,
Secretary, Mrs Vernon Swager,

BHOEMER CLASS. Did not organize as a Branch, but were organized as a class, of about thirty ladies, and did as much work as any of the regularly organized classes.

JUNIOR work was developed through the agency of the schools. The school children developed a surprising interest and skill both in providing knitted goods andhospital supplies. They were ably led in this work and in the rasing of funds by Mrs Lon B. DeHaven, Miss Besse Sale, Miss Irene Cook and Prof, J. F. Myers,

The organization had scarcely been completed when the first drive for a War Fund was announced. The quota for Wells County was $9500.00 A Finance Committee was appointed under the leadership of Robert W. Stine. The quota for the entire County was divided between the several townships and the city of Bluffton. Township Committies were appointed and these in tum appointed solicitors and assigned districts to them. The canvas was carried out and the sum raised. The same organization was employed when the subsequent drives were made including the United War Welfare drive made during the lasts months of the war.

In the autumn of 1918 the influenza reached epidemic form in Wells County. The County was totally un-prepared for it. Its prevelance throughout the United States had been observed by the general officers of the National Red Cross who directed bulletins to the various Chapters urging them to take up the work for those who could not care for themselves.

In this time of need the officers of the Chapter received a generous offer from the Knights of Phytias. This lodge tendered the use of its temple known as the Pythian Home to the Red Cross for an influenza Hospital. This generous offer was accepted and the building was fitted up as a hospital. Miss Cora Shoemaker a graduate nurse was called to be the Superintendent. Other nurses were secured through Mrs Fred McBride who served as a committee on nurses.

Mrs Fred Longdon of the First Aid department collected bedding. The Wells County Hospital assisted in supplying equipment. Materials needed had been located previously by a survey which had been made by the chairman. The assembling of these and the employment of help was dne by a special committee appointed for the purpose.

The whole number of patients treated was 167. The epidemic took virulent form in the county but only 9 deaths took place in the Pythian Home Hospital. After closing the Hospital a slight recurrence of the epidemic made it necessary to re open a place where patients could be received. The City Buildibg was offered the Chapter, by Mayor F. P. Hunt, and additional patients were received and treated,

The operation of this Hospital and its great service to the citizens of Wells County was made possible by the generous receipts from a Red Cross booth at the Bluffton Street Fair, also by donations from farmers at stock sales and from business men who shared their profits with the organization.

At the Annual Meeting in October 1918 Rev, B. E. Reemsnyder was elected to the Chairmanship, Rev, O. R. McKay declining a 3rd term, The other officers were re-elected to succeede themselves. The return of peaceto the world relieved the workers of the stress of emergency and attention was turned to the needs of community health.

After due consideration it was decided by the Directors to employ a District Nurse whose duty should be the care and oversight and sanitation for the whole of Wells County. The first to hold this position was Miss Ann Straight whose experience ably prepared her for the task of supervising community health.

The Wells County Chapter of the Red Cross makes no claim to pre-eminence in achivement in the time of the Nations peril, but rejoices in the opportunity to serve at a time when service is needed,

Dr. O. R. McKay.
1st Chairman.

1917-1918.

( B. E. Reemsnyder,
( R. W. Stine,
( Geo, Saunders
( Will Bar,
( A. B. Cline,
( Mrs A. B. Cline,
(( Merle Williamson,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
1918-1919.

( B. E. Reemsnyder, Chairman,
( Fred D. Bell,
( W. E. Simons,
( Fred Tangeman,
( Will Smith,
( Charles Dailey,
( Lon Batson,

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Since organization,

( B. A. Batson,
( Mrs Fred Longdon,
( Mrs Chas, Sturgis,
( Mrs. J. W. McKinney,
( Mrs W. R. Barr,
( Mrs J. E. Reynolds.
( Miss Bessie Sale,
( Mrs Walter Shead.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

Orin Craven,

# WELLS COUNTY CHAPTER. BLUFFTON. INDIANA.

Officers for County Chapter,

| | |
|---|---|
| CHAIRMAN. | Rev, B. E. Reemsnyder, |
| VICE CHAIRMAN. | Chas, E. Sturgis, |
| SECRETARY. | Miss Blanche Karns, |
| TREASURER. | W. W. Rogers, |
| Office Secretary, | Miss Ethel Sprague, |

| | DIRECTORS. | Occupation, of |
|---|---|---|
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS. | R. W. Stine, | Attorney, |
| | Fred D. Bell, | Merchant, |
| | W. E. Simons, | Real Estate, |
| | Fred Tangeman, | Banker, |
| | Will Smith, | Merchant, |
| | Merle Williamson, | Banker, |
| | A. B. Cline, | Merchant, |
| | Charles Dailey, | Attorney, |
| | Will Barr, | Merchant, |
| | Lon Batson, | Post Master, |
| | Earl Sturgis. | Detist, |
| | George Saunders, | Editor, |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
1917-1918.

- B. E. Reemsnyder,
- R. W. Stine,
- Geo, Saunders
- Will Bar,
- A. B. Cline,
- Mrs A. B. Cline,
- Merle Williamson,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
1918-1919.

- B. E. Reemsnyder, Chairman,
- Fred D. Bell,
- W. E. Simons,
- Fred Tangeman,
- Will Smith,
- Charles Dailey,
- Lon Batson,

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Since organization,

- B. A. Batson,
- Mrs Fred Longdon,
- Mrs Chas, Sturgis,
- Mrs. J. W. McKinney,
- Mrs W. R. Barr,
- Mrs J. E. Reynolds.
- Miss Bessie Sale,
- Mrs Walter Shead.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

Orin Craven,

WELLS COUNTY CHAPTER, Bluffton, Ind,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WOMANS WORK. | ( Mrs A. B. Cline, | Knitting, | |
| | ( Mrs R. K. Souder, | Surgical, | |
| | ( Miss Lila Curtis, | Cutting, | 1917-1918 |
| SEWING. | ( Miss Ethel Sprague(acting chair- | | |
| | ( man 1917-1919.) | | |

Mrs Julia Gibson, served on this committee until her removal from city. Mrs Dr, I. N. Hatfield, Mrs C. E. Sturgis and Mrs John Willhelm each served in turn, until illness in family caused hem to resign,

| | |
|---|---|
| INSPECTING. | ( Mrs Gibson, |
| | ( Miss Gertrude Bickel, |
| | ( Mrs Mort McAfee, |
| | ( Mrs Edson Haughton, |

FIRST AID COMMITTEE.

( Dr, L.H. Cook, Chairman,
( Dr, Severin,
( Mrs Geo, Arnold,
( Mrs Fred Longdon, Secy,
( Mrs Cora Zehrung,
( Mrs Ray Snyder,
( Miss Golda Archbold,

Locating Missing men and foreign correspondence, J. W. Decker,

| | |
|---|---|
| HOME SERVICE | ( Theo Harsh, Chairman, |
| | ( Dr, Morris, Examiner, |
| | ( Miss Sprague, Secy, |
| NURSING SURVEY. | ( Mrs Fred McBride, |
| Xmas Parcels, | ( Dr, Z. E. Malcolm, |

WELLS COUNTY CHAPTER. BLUFFTON. INDIANA.

Bluffton is the county seat of Wells County, Indiana and each year is the scene of a County Fair. The fair embodies everything usual in a regular county fair except the racing, and is given upon the streets of the city instead of in a regular fair ground It is in no sense a street carnival, It draws lrge crowds of people as they come from a considerable distance,

In 1918 the directors of the Wells County Chapter of the American Red Cross conceived the idea of a public auction during this Bluffton Fair. Committies were appointed and as time elapsed the idea idea developed into a much more pretentious plan than originally contemplated.

A general committee had charge and caused to be erected a wooden booth 120ft long by 10 ft, wide, along the most prominent half block in town. This space was donated by the business firms of that half block, One end of this booth was given over to the auction sale. The other end was used as an eating place, while the center was used as a rest room, first aid headquarters, a booth for checking wraps and headquarters for the secretary, who had on display for distribution, the literature setting forth the various activities of the American Red Cross.

The committee on the auction sale enlisted the services of registered men who had been given deferred classification by the draft board. These men were organized by townships, and made a farm to farm and house to house canvas soliciting for farm products, canned goods, and any other saleable articles that they could get, The response in donations was overwhelming. Two large warerooms had to be secured and hundreds of bushels of corn, oats, wheat, potatoes and other farm products were brought in wagons and trucks, Considerable live stock was also donated. One patriotic man and wife living in the most remote township gave a cow worth about one hundred dollars.

The smaller articles such as canned goods, clothing, etc, were sold at auction from the booth, while the bulkier farm products were auctioned from the ware rooms. The cow mentioned above was sold at auction a number of times and brought a total of $960.00 Enthusiasm ran very high and after the top price had been reached for the cow, invitations were given for donations to be given to add to the price of the cow and these brought the total receipts on the cow to $1410.00.

The eating section of the booth was in charge of the ladies of the various branches in the county, each branch having charge on a certain day, Considerable rivalry arose as to which branch would make thebest showing in cash receipts,

The larder for each succeeding day was stocked in the morning with lucious viands prepared by the skilled hands of patriotic Wells County women, and the loads of fried chicken and other good things to eat were completely consumed by the appreciative crowds that lined the eating counters of the booth the greater part of the day, This department cleared $1.339.27.

The rest room section xxx was usually filled with tired folks who enjoyed the chance to rest awhile, andthe Red Cross Booth was free.

from the first, the central feature of the fair.

A grand total realized from the enterprise, went into the treasury of the Wells County Chapter in a special fund for which abundant use was found.

After the fair, the red cross cow, which by that time had acquired more than county wide fame, was put on sale at various country sales. The woner, whoever, he might be at that time would state that all over a certain amount, which amount was in each case considerably less than he had paid for the cow, was to be donated to the Red Cross, and tidy sums ofmoney went into the treasury of the Wells County Chapter, or the Chapter in the other county where the sale happened to be held. The doners of the $100.00 cow from this most remote Wells County Township had the satisfaction of seeing the value of their gift multiplied many times,

The money raised at the Fair was used in various activities of the Wells County Chapter. An Emergency Hospital was established and maintained during the epidemic of influenza and proved a blessing to many people. $3000.00 was used in this work. Later $2500.00 was appropriated to pay the salary and expenses of a visiting nurse for one year for work in the County. A Lungmotor was also purchased and various other things were made posible because so much money was raised by the Red Cross during the 1918 Street Fair.

( By W. R. Barr. )

WAR FUND DRIVE.

In the drive to raise the Wells County apportionment of the Red Cross War Fund, an executive committee was appointed. This committee appointed a chairman and a Treasuruer for the drive, A chairman and a Treasurer was appointed for each civil corporation of the County. The executive committee apportioned to each corporation the amount of money to be raised by that corporation,

The Township organization of each township of the County appointed solicitors for each square mile of territory within the township. The solicitors reported to the township treasurer on the evening of each day of the drive, the amount subscribed. This was reported immediately to the executive committee of the County. Under this form of organization Wells County promptly raised the amount of money apportioned to it in all War Fund Drives for the Red Cross.

( By R. W. Stine, )

FIRST AID.

Dr, L. H. Cook, Chairman, Dr, Louis Severin, Vice Ch, Dr, S. H. Shoemaker, Examiner, Mrs Fred Longdon, Secy & Treas,

One class completed its course in first aid instructions as prescribed by the National Organization. There were 28 members enrolled in the class and ten were awarded diplomas.

The showing made by this department is not as favorable as was desired by those interested, which was due to enthusiasm in other branches of work by many eligible to the instruction, also the difficuilty in securing instructors, with many doctors called to active service the burden thrown upon the doctors left at home was such as to make it almost impossible for them to give their time for the instruction of first aid classes.

During the Five days of the Bluffton 1918 Street Fair, the First Aid Department maintained an emergency booth with first aid graduates in charge.

During the influenza epidemic the past winter (1918) the First Aid department was in a measure responsible for equiping an emergency hospital which was maintained at the ezpense of the County Red Cross Chapter, and which was beyond question the means of saving many lives.

(By Mrs Fred Longdon)

WELLS COUNTY CHAPTER. BLUFFTON. INDIANA.

The Wells County Chapter has its headquarters in the Studabkaer Bank Bldg, having the use of modern office rooms free. All materials and supplies for the County coming to these headquarters All work was distributed from these rooms, and returned there where they were inspected, packed and shipped. The office work was also taken care of in these rooms.

The Surgical Dressings made by the ldies of Wells County were all made by the ladies of Bluffton, as it was inconvenient for ladies from the Branches to get into Bluffton. These classes were conducted according to instructions from Headquarters. An authorized instructor coming down and spending one week with the ladies, teaching them the work.

They conducted their classes each afternoon and completed a great amount of work. Never having any of it returned, because of in-accuracy,

There were sewing and knitting classes at headquarters in Bluffton, where there were classes four days a week. The branches were organized in the villages and a Chairman of Sewing and a Chairman of Knitting was appointed. The sewing and knitting being done by the ladies of the entire county.

As the completed work was returned it was marked with the name of the gou group making them. In this way we knew if any work came in badly made, who had done it, we returned their own work to them for alteration. They soon learned they must complete the garments according to instructions and to the samples given them. It was not long until all Branches and Classes we doing neat work.

Before this plan of marking the work as it came in was adopted we found it impossible to expalin to them it was work from a certain group, as we checked it before them they knew we could not be mistaken.

When Chapters were purchasing their own materials, we spent on an average of $1000.00 per month for supplies, and kept our ladies busy as long as we could secure materials. After the work was issued in quotas we completed all work assigned to us.

Our Junior organization was not strong, but they did a great deal of knitting for the Chapter and did quite a little sewing.

(By Ethel Sprague,)

***

Bluffton, Indiana, Oct, 25, 1919.

Report of Home Service Dept, of the Wells County Chapter of the AMERICAN RED CROSS.

---

From April 1st to September 30th, 1919, 533 families were dealt with,

For each of 233 families letters were written and general information given. One or more members of each of these families calling at Home Service Office. For some of these families affidavits were made which enabled them to secure back pay due soldiers, family allotments, extra travel pay, and lost or undelivered Liberty Bonds were located.

APPLICATIONS were made for securing compensation, clothing allowance on clothing which men had paid for, re-issue of clothing, bonus, Victory Buttons, insurance re-instatement and forwarding of payments on insurance.

Physicians, relatives, friends, ministers and lawyers were asked for various kinds of information and assistance that the Home Service Department might intelligently assist discharged service men and those yet in service.

Some 300 families were given general information, and for whom no letters were written nor affidavits made. These people wither calling in person at office or calling by 'phone,

Loans amounting to $50.00 were made. All money loaned to local parties were promptly repaid, upon receipt of their checks from the government. Some of the money loaned to transients was not repaid, which amounts to about $25.00

241 correct service records were secured from men or their relatives who called at office. Also from the War Mothers records and from the County Recordors office. Some 200 new records were secured at the registration booth during the stret fair in September,

(Records thus secured are to be followed up, and men having had hospital care will be looked up and necessary assistance and information given them in filing claims, etc,)

Monthly financial reports were made and forwarded to Lake Division Office, Also monthly Home Service reports were sent to Division Office.

Numerous letters were written to the following departments at Cleveland, General Information, Civilian Relief, Publicity, Health and After Care, Production and Accounting. Also various State offices,

Letters were written each week to the Federal Board for Vocational Education and Rehabilitation, and the Public Health Service Director at Cincinnati. Also Medicial examiner at Fy, Wayne, Ind.

A great many letters were written to the War Risk Insurance Bureau, the Compensation and Claims Dept, Discharged Enlisted men's pay Bureau and Allotment and Allowance Dept, at Washington.

STATEMENT OF FIRST Y.M.C.A. CANVASS IN WELLS COUNTY* May 1917.

As the world War continued, the work of the Y.M.C.A. became more apparent. To provide funds to carry on this work a Nation-wide Campaigne was launched from May 20 to 28, 1917., to raise at least $3,000,000.oo of which $150,000. was to be furnished by Indiana. The allotment for Wells County was $850.oo Mr. E.F.Yarnelle, of Ft. Wayne, as district chairman, and E.W.Pierce of Ft. Wayne, as sec. and treas. had charge of the campaign in the third district, to which subdivision Wells County belonged.

A.B.Cline, of Bluffton, was appointed by E.F. Yarnelle, as chairman and director of the campaigne in Wells County. R.S.Todd was also appointed as sec. and F.J.Tangeman as treas. At a mass meeting, held in the assembly room of the Studabaker Bank, it was decided not to make a general canvass of the county to raise such a small amount.

Nine committees were appointed to canvass the city of Bluffton, composed of the following members;-

Committee #1- W.S.Smith & J.R.Spivey
" 2- W.W.Rogers & J.C.Carnall
" 3- O.E.Lesh & Theo.Harsh
" 4- W.W.Weisell & Ralph Staver
" 5- Geo. L. Arnold & Geo. E. Mosiman
" 6- J. C. Monyhan & A.B.Cline
" 7- C.G.Daily & F.E.Ehle
" 8- F.C.Waugh & J.E.Reynolds
" 9- Alfred Sauers & J. Belger

Subscriptions were received ranging in amounts from 25¢ to $25.oo totalling $791.75 which left a deficit in reaching the allotment. A committee composed of A.B.Cline and R.W.Stine canvassed nearby towns collecting at Kingsland $6.50; at Ossian $27.00; at Uniondale $24.50. A committee composed of A.B.Cline and Fred Bell canvassed and secured at Linerty Center $1. at Petroleum $8.50, all of which put together made a grand total of $859.25 The entire amount of the canvass was sent to the sec. and treas., W.E.Pierce at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the receipt for which is held by the county cahirman.

Credit is due the contributors of this fund for the spirit of willingness and patriotic loyalty with which they responded to the solictors. No expense was incurred, during the campaign, that was chargeable to this fund.

A. B. Cline

STATEMENT OF SECOND Y.M.C.A. CAMPAIGN IN WELLS COUNT- November 1917.

The Y.M.C.A. Campaing conducted in May 1917, yielded only sufficient funds to carry on the work for a few months and in November 1917, the second Campaign was launched by the National War Work council of the Y.M.C.A. to raise a fund of $35,000,000.

Mr. E.F.Yarnelle, of Ft. Wayne, was made chairman and Mr. E.W. Pierve of Ft. Wayne, was made sec. and treas. and District Director of District No. 3 in which Wells County fell. At a mass meeting held in the Studabaker Bank assembly room, the following organization was perfected;

County Chairman-A.B.Cline
Asst. " " R.S.Todd
County Eexec. Sec- J.E.Reynolds
County Treasurer- F.J.Tangeman

Jefferson Twp. organizer- D.H.Swaim
chairman - Dr. E.D.Poffenbarger
treasurer- Albert Melching

Lancaster Twp. organizer- W.A.Kunkel
chairman - N.J.Kleinknight
treasurer- W.J.Dustman

Harrison Twp. organizer- F.M.Buckner
cahirman - F.M. Buckner
treasurer- J.W.Cook

Nottingham Twp. organizer- F.W.Gordon& A.B.Cline
chairman- Samuel Gehrett
treasurer- Arthur Kirkwood

Chester Twp. organizer- Lawrence Goodin
chairman - Ed Cassel
treasurer- Wm. Showalter

Jackson Twp. organzier- B.A.Batson
chairman - Dennis Bilbee
treasurer- Lawwon J. Bevans

Liberty Twp. organizer- W.E. Simons
chairman - O.D. Garrett
treasurer- C.S? Hart

Rockcreek Twp. prganizer- Claude C. Cole
chairman - Jno. T. Oldfather
treasurer- J.O. Gordon

Union Twp. organizer- A.W.Hamilton
chairman - S.W. Newhard
treasurer- Jacob Kohr

City of Bluffton orgnzr - R.S.Todd
chairman - R.S.Todd
treasurer- F.J.Tangeman

County Executive Committee;

W.R.Barr F.W.Gordon W.E.Simons
J.R.Spivey R.W.Stine
J.E.Reynolds T.C.Guldin

The allotment fixed by the district organoztion for Wells County, was $6000.

Thef ollowing are the allotments to the city of Bluffton and the various Townships, as fixed by the several chairmen.

| | |
|---|---|
| City of Bluffton..... | $2000.00 |
| Jefferson Twp..... | 500.00 |
| Lancaster " ..... | 500.00 |
| Harrison " ..... | 500.00 |
| Nottingham " ..... | 500.00 |
| Chester " ..... | 400.00 |
| Jackson " ..... | 400.00 |
| Liberty " ..... | 400.00 |
| Rockcreek " ..... | 400.00 |
| Union " ..... | 400.00 |
| Total..... | $6000.00 |

Previous to the canvass for the raising of the several allotments, meetings were held at various places throughout the county. One large meeting was held at the Opera House, addressed by Rev. Folson, of Ft. Waune, and the enthusiasm shown by our people in the attendance of the meetings in general was only indicative of the hearty and generous response to the canvassers as they pursued their work throughout the county; so that their work, within a few days of the close of the campaign, brought about the meeting of the entire allotments in full, by cash contributions, to the hands of the county treasurer and remittances were made to the District Treasurer, O. N. Heaton, at Ft. Wayne.

In addition to the $6000.00 paid by the contributions of Wells County a number of the Bluffton High School Boys, under the direction of Prof. Sylvester Miller and his assisstants, contributed from one to ten dollars each, amounting to $326.00 which was added to the $6000.00 In addition to these amounts $16.00 of a special contribution and $9.25 the balance collected from the first drive, brought the total cash contribution of Wells County from all sources to $6351.25. Against this sum there is charged up as expense of a speaker, advertising and Opera House, a total of $42.60, leaving a net amount to the Y.M.C.A. War Fund, for the second Campaign, of $6308.65.

A. B. Cline

STATEMENT OF UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN NOVEMBER 1918.

As the World War still went on, various demands were being made and planned by the representatives of the organizations contributing to the morale of the soldiers, which was destined to become annoying as well as laborious for our people to render them necessary service. At a National meeting of the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., National Catholic War Council(K of C), Jewish Welfare Board, War Camp Community Service, American Library Association, Salvation Army; a United War Work Campaign for the raising of $170,500,000.oo for these allied interest was determined. November 11 to 18, 1918 was fixed as the time for this Campaign. Indiana's quotawas fixed at $5000000.oo Wells County was grouped with the counties comprising the third district. The allotment to the third Disrict was $514,892.oo and for Wells County was $37,651.oo

E.F.Yarnelle, of Ft. Wayne, was made district chariman and E.W.Pierce Disrict Director. At a Mass meeting held Oct. 22, 1918 at the assembly room in the Studabaker Bank, the following organization was perfected for the United War Work Campaign.

County Chairman- A. B. Cline
" Treasurer-F.J. Tangeman
" Secretary Thoe. V. Harsh.

The following appointments were made to represent the various United Interests.

Y.M.C.A.....A.B.Cline
Y.W.C.A.....Mrs. W.S.Smith
Amer. Library Assoc.....Mrs. W.H.Eichorn
Nat. Cath. War Council( KofC)...J.C.Moynihan
War Camp Community Service.....Theo. V. Harsh
Jewish Welfare Board.....Benj. Levenson

The following was named as the executive Committee.

A.B.Cline-chairman
Mrs. W.S.Smith
Mrs. W.H.Eichorn
J.C.Moynihan
Theo. V. Harsh
W.R.Barr
J.R.Spivey
Geo. L. Saunders
R.S.Todd
Benj. Levenson

The following was named as the speakers Committee.

Rev. W.T.Arnold-chairman )
B.A.Batson. ) To select places, fix dates and arrange speakers for all meetings.
W.R.Barr )

The following was named as the advertising Committee.

J.R.Spivey-chairman
Jack Belger
J.E.Reynolds

The following was named Advertising Committee.

C.A.Breece- chairman
Lawrence Goodin
Earl McFarren
Geo. Morris.

Prof. J.F.Myers was appointed to have charge of securing and preparing index cards of the tax payers of the county and city, to use in the general canvass. County Supt. of Public Schools , A.R.Huyette, was appointed county director to look after the Victory Boys.

Mrs. C.C.Deam was appointed county director for the Victory Girls to look after work outside of the City of Bluffton.

Mrs. F.E.Ehle was appointed to take up the canvass of both the Victory Boys and Girls in the City Schools.

The splendid service rendered by Supt. A.R.Huyette and Mrs. C.C.Deam, Mrs. W.A.Walmer, Mrs. W.H.Eichorn, Mrs. W.A.Patton, and Rev. W.T.Arnold aided greatly in the contributions to the general fund throughout the county.

Under the direction of Mrs. F.E.Ehle, the teachers in the Bluffton Public Schools renedered excellent service in the Victory Boys and Girls Campaign, the contributions from which are reported with the city of Bluffton.

The speakers committee rendered invaluable service in securing such able and efficient speakers from home citizens consisting of,

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. W.T.Arnold | Abr. H. Simmons |
| Dr. O.R.McKay | W.H.Eichorn |
| Rev. B.E.Reamsnyder | Geo. Mock |
| Rev. O.C.Truesdale | O.E.Lesh |
| Rev. E.W.Kruse | Grant Pyle |
| R.W.Stine | A.B.Cline |
| A.W.Hamilton | Mrs. Frank Engler |
| Frank Gordon | J.F.Myers |
| C.G.Daily | A.S.Elzy |
| Theo. V. Harsh | Lieut. Emmett Stout. |

The following is the township organization.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jefferson Twp..... | cahrmn- | Dr. E.D.Poffenbarger |
| | treas.. | E.H.Roe |
| Lancaster " ..... | chrmn - | N.J.Kleinknight |
| | treas.- | A.H.Hetrick |
| Harrison " ..... | charmn- | F.M.Buckner |
| | treas.- | J.W.Cook |
| Nottingham " ..... | charmn- | Samuel Gehrett |
| | treas.- | Rev. J.R.Knipe |
| Chester " ..... | charmn- | Ed Cassel |
| | treas.- | Wm. Showalter |
| Jackson " ..... | charmn- | Ross Hardman |
| | treas.- | Lawson J. Bevans |
| Liberty " ..... | charmn- | O.D.Garret |
| | treas.- | c.s.Hart |

Rockcreek Twp.....charmn-Jno. T. Oldfather
treas.-Harman Miller
Union " .....charmn-S.W.Newhard
treas.-Gearry L. Knight
City of Bluffton..charmn-R.S.Todd

The following contributions were reported from the various townships and city of Bluffton.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jefferson Twp..... | $3907.25 |
| Lancaster " ..... | 3673.80 |
| Harrison "..... | 3421.95 |
| Nottingham " ..... | 2859.82 |
| Chester " ..... | 2268.20 |
| Reg. Men's Organization Chst.twp | 25.04 |
| Jacskon Twp..... | 1769.09 |
| Liberty " ..... | 2822.18 |
| Rockcreek " ..... | 3512.25 |
| Union " ..... | 2178.27 |
| City of Bluffton.... | 9149.82 |
| Y.M.C.A.Fund..... | 65.83 |
| Reg. Men's Organiztion | 147.14 |
| Int. Paid on Funds .. | 75.71 |
| Total from all sources | $35,876.35 |
| Allotment for county | $37,651.00 |

Shortage for County..$ 1774.65

On account of the Influenza Epidemic in certain sections of the County, in addition to the influence of the signing of the armistice reduced the amount of the contributions quite materially. The general results however, show that our people were deeply interested and gave liberally to this worthy cause. It is only fair to state that the City of Bluffton and Rockcreek township contributed more thatn their allotment. The entire campaign was conducted with a total expense charge of $125.58 so that the net amount of the campaign was $35,750.77

A. B. Cline

W.A.KUNKEL
BLUFFTON, INDIANA

January 21, 1920.

Hon. Charles E.Sturgis, Chairman,
Wells County Council of Defense,
Bluffton, Indiana.

My dear Judge:-

You have asked me several times to write up a history of my administration as County Food Administrator for Wells County during the time of my office, but frankly with you I have been very busy and been away from home and have neglected to comply with your request.

I went into office in October 1917 and continued in same until about August 1918 when I was requested to put all my efforts forth in helping to produce oil in order to have plenty for our allies, hence I tendered my resignation as County Food Administrator in order to devote my entire time to produce oil, being succeeded in office by Mr. W. H. Berling, who I know took same up and carried it out very successfully until and after the armistice was signed.

After I took the oath of office as Food Administrator for Wells County I let all business go, turned my office over as headquarters and had a meeting of all retail grocers in the county and also of the flour mill owners each Wednesday night and in this way we had a complete organization of the

W.A.KUNKEL
BLUFFTON,INDIANA



county. The facts of the case are, I made each retail grocer a deputy food administrator for the county and told them that they were liable the same as I was and that they should never do anything without getting instructions direct from me and that as long as they lived up to this they would never get into trouble because of it, as I would always stand behind them in anything they would do providing it was according to instructions received at these weekly meetings. There was only one thing to do and that was to strictly follow out instructions we r eceived from Dr. Barnard, State Food Administrator, which we did, and every one of the grocers during my entire administration did the same thing the County Food Administrator did.

In fact there is not much of a histor y to it because we did not have any trouble. I could go ahead and name each retail grocer and also the proprietors of flour mills and various farmers in the county who were of great assistance to me during my administration, but the fact is, we simply followed out instructions, saved all food possible and at no time during my administration was there any cause for having any of the retail grocers or any person who handled fb od supplies in the county brought before the state food administrator for the violation of any of his instructions.

Summing the whole matter up, it was simply success caused by good organization in the county and no trouble and all fb od possible saved in order to help win the war. Further,

W.A.KUNKEL
BLUFFTON, INDIANA



during my entire administration I never sent in one cent of expense, furnished and paid for office for headquarters, paid all my assistants and I want to say to you right now, it was some job. The detail work was enormous but at that I am glad I was able to do it. I believe the organization in Wells County was as good as any other county in the state.

Furthermore, I desire to thank you very much, and also the other members of your Defense Board, for assistance given me while I was Food Administrator of Wells County. When I agreed to accept this office after you had insisted on me doing so a number of times, I just made up my mind I was going to help you out and make a success of same if possible. Therefore I let all business go, took my whole force and was strictly in the food business and would have continued until the close of the war, only that I could be of a great deal more help in winning the war by getting back into producing oil, as I was requested to do, rather than continue as Food Administrator, when my place could be easily filled from the organization I had in the county.

Special deputies I had during my administration were John D. Reiter, traveling salesman for W. H. Hood wholesale Grocery Company of Portland, Indiana; Mr. Reiter was a wonderful help to me and did great work for the Food Administration in Wells County. J. M. Waid of Uniondale was another man I relied greatly on as was William Kirkwood of Petroleum,

W.A.KUNKEL
BLUFFTON, INDIANA



all serving without one cent of cost to me or the Food Administration.

J. H. Painter, Adalgo Wandel, Jesse Markley, Geo. W. Stover, Frank Hixon, Halda Garton, all retail grocers are entitled to the success of the Food Administration in Wells County; Nelson W. Stafford and his son Roy Stafford want mention as being of great assistance to me on the flour mill port of my administration. William Spain in the bakery business did very well in his part of the success of the administration.

My executive committee of John H.Painter, wholesale and retail groceryman, Jess Markley of Markley & Son retail grocers and Adalgo Wandel, retail groceryman were at all times subject to my call for any advice or assistance I desired and these three gentlemen are entitled to the success of the Food Administration in Wells County during my administration, Mr. Robert K. Souder had charge of the office during the entire time I was County Food Administrator and no one could have handled the same more successfully than Mr. Souder.

I could go ahead and mention each individual groceryman and person who assisted me in my administration but that would make too lengthy a report; all of them were fine, and with the exception of two retail groceryman, not one particle of trouble did I have, and as soon as these two understood conditions they came in and assisted whole-heartedly the same

W.A.KUNKEL
BLUFFTON, INDIANA



as the others. In this report I desire to thank to the utmost all persons who assisted me in my administration as Federal Food Administrator of Wells County.

Yours very truly,

William A. Kunkel

DOINGS OF THE FOOD ADMINSTRATION FROM JULY 1st 1918
UNTILL THE CLOSE OF THE DUTIES WHICH WAS THE FIST OF FEB.1919

Will H Berling of the Firm of Berling & Moltz Company of Bluffton Indiana dealers in Wholesale produce Butter Eggs and Poultry was recomended by Chas E Sturgis Chairman of the Wells County Concil of Defense for the office of Wells County Food Adminstrator to succeed W.A.Kunkel who resigned from the Food Adminstrator work to help produce more oil in the time of Goverments greatest need. This was alongthe first part of July 1918 and the commission of appointment came about the 15th of July 1918 at once taking the oath of office on the same day Maud Baumgardner was appointed Asst Food Adminstrator with office in the Court house at that time with the County Concil of Defense. The work getting started was made easier by the the great work done previous by Mr W A Kunkel and his Asst Robert Souder. Their was meetings held with the Groceries of the County twice per. month and all the work of the Food Adminstration was done thru cooporation as all orders were by request and the meat-less dayd and wheatless days were very well observed thruout the County, in a patrotic way without any exceptions, hundreds of posters were distrubted thruout the County as follows Save Wheat Save Meat and as different articles were getting short a slogan was started to save that article for the Boys over their and the Allied armies. The Food Adminstration received their instructions thru Indianpolis by the very abel leader H E Barnard State Food Adminstrati who in turn receivec them thru Hoover from Washington. All orders were carried out just as we received them from Indinapolis Indiana and each County was in receipt of the same order and the County Adminstrators thru their deputies and Asst Food Adminstrators were all-ways in harmony regarding orders as they were exactly alike to the letter.

Sugar cards calling for 25# sugar were issued thru the Ad minstration office at first then when the supply was getting shorter

at the first 3# for each one in their family pr.month per.person then when the supply was shorting it was cut to 2# per.month pr.person and each grocery had to make a list of each customer which was turned into the Adminstrator offices the Following Monday after the close of Saturdays business with the names of every purchaser in the County this is the way the Adminstrator had of known how much each family hd and if they were over drawn in the Sugar account, and the amount of purchaser ran into Thousands their was very few notices sent out to families regarding their purchaser as they were patrotic and kept within the limits that the Food Adminstration asked them to do.

Flour was sold at first as follows 50# flour and 50# subtitues and the purchase were confined to small amounts and when the seasons Wheat crop came on it was increased as follows 80# Flour and 20#B subtitues. These sales were also kept by the Grocery in the County and a report mde of it eeekly to the Adminstration office at Blufftton.

In every town in the County regardless of how small had a deputy to issue sugar cards for canning purposes and these were appointed by the County Adminstrator andthey done their work in a degree of success that mertis due consideration for they did their work with patiences without any recompense as their salary was nothing the same as all the employes of the Food Adminstrator were volantiary workers andthey received no money for their work they did it for patrotic reasons and were told thru Washington thru our Fedearl Food Adminstrator that FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR and I sincerely do beleive that Food did win the war with the coroporation of the house wives and patrotice dervice given the Fedearl State And County Adminstrator by their efforts in saving such staples foods for the Armies in the field, and thru Food Clubsof each County which certainly did a lot of service to all three the Federal State and County Food Adminstrations.

The office of the County Adminstrat

all-ways their and sugars cards were issued continually for canning thru the Sdminstrators ofice even up to late Saturday nights to accomdate the people who could not possibly get their duringthe day time.

Trying incidents occured at times and the pace set by our Fedearl Food Adminstration thru the State Adminstrator were very hrd to follow out but they were to theletter as we would get an order oneday and the next day it wss recinded this only went to preve that Wahington andIndinapolis knew what they were doing as they hd the pulse of the people that were fighting in Eurpe and knew their needs. You will likely reme,ber of the great German drive the first part of the year 1918 ,we were asked to save a certain kind of meat andto observe meat less days. This was done as the German Army had capurted the Allies supply of meat and they were in desperate straits,an order coming from Washington ws received in Chicago and Express trains were rushed out of Chicago and were on the battlefront within a short time with the meat that the Amercain people were asked to save in order that it could be used for the Army. So all orders from the Federal Food Adminstration were never at any time questioned by the Eounty or State Adminstrators offices.

Their were twenty six deputies in the County one Asst Food Adminstrator and the County Adminstrator. Andeach and every one did the best for their Govemment the Fedearl Food Adminstration and also the state and the county.

All orders received thru the State Adminstrator were published by the papers in both papers without any charge and a high place compliment surely this was as their were at times a great many orders and they came all most daily,and the success of the Food Adminstration in this county a great deal can be laid to the dialy press.

A fair price commitee was appointed by the County Adminstrator along the middle of th Summer on request out of Washington shwoing

weekly at the meeting of the Fair price commitee and published weekly in both the daily papers, the price contianed the fair price was fromm the grocer the dairy butcher.

Just as soon as any article became plentiful the ban on their use was taken off about Nov 15th people and groceries alike were told that they could use all white flour without any subtitues and as the begining of the end of the war was in sight different orders were recinded.

In closeing the Food Adminstration wishes to thank the people in general of Wells County for their hearty cooporation given it during the peiod of the war the Press of our City of Bluffton, The food clubs of the County Wells County Concil of Defense the Groceries the Meat Markets Daries and special mention should be made for the Aast Food Adminstrator and the twenty-Six deputies who served so faithfully without any recomponse for their time or service in issueing sugar cards to the Public.

The County Adminstrator tried to do his best for the people and serves the people of the county and if at times conditions seemed to be hard it was the request of the Federal Food Adminstration that orders were carried out, and the time spent in the work of the Food Adminstration in this County was not hard when the County helped thru cooperation in seeing that each order was carried out. A great amount of Food Staples were saved thru the work of the Food Adminstration and it was one of the greatest if not the greatest of the things created during the War, and as every home every person gave their hearty co oporation to Herbert Hoover plan of saving Food, by requesting the Amercain people to SAVE FOOD AND FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR that it was saved andthat food did play a very importahh part in winning the Worlds War for the Allies and the United States.

Will H. Berling,
County Food Administrator.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

Resume of the Work of the War Savings Committee.

Among the many and varied efforts of the U.S.Government to thwart the execution of the program of the Imperial German Government to thrust its civilization destroying system upon the world ### the action of the National War Savings Committee was by no means the least, for through its activities# there was gathered from peoples of all walks and stations the mites that went to make the great aggregate finally accumulated by the movement.

The purposes of this branch of War Work were fulfilled to a degree beyond the expectations of the originators of the plan, and the money thus gathered provided the necessary funds for the prosecution of no small part of the Governments program against the enemy.

In Wells county the work was begun under the direction of George L.Saunders,of Bluffton, Indiana,and through the agency of the schools a considerable amount of money was pledged for stamps, however the duties of the position became so arduous that because of his duties in connection with the publication of one of the local newspapers which to a very large degree made possible the success of the various drives during the war by their constant labord in keeping before the people the many important steps being constantly taken,that it became necessary to release him on his own request from his position as Chairmanfor Wells County, and O.E.Lesh,was selected to carry on the work so well begun by Mr.Saunders.

A complete organization was at once planned and completed through which the work put up to them by the District Chairman as directed by the State Chairman for Indiana,was carried on.

The committee was staggered by the enormity of the task as it appeared upon the face when they were told that Wells County would be expected to come to report day with a total pledged of $448,360 in War Savings Stamps,but with the never say quit spirit the organization composed of the men who had been putting over the Liberty Loan Drives ,Red Cross Drives ,and Y.M.C.A. Drives and ### had by previous experience learned how to do the thing quickly and effectively,together with the active ,aggressive work of the ~~Young Men's~~ Registered Young Men's Association of the several townships' went to their tasks in such a manner that when the time for report came Wells County was ##### able to proudly cry " Over the Top ".

To discuss fully the details of organization work,setting forth how the spirit of enthusiasm was aroused throughout the county would burden many pages,and that will not here be attempted.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

However, we deem it but fair that the self sacrificing ~~#####~~ Mothers' Sons who made victory possible in this case shoul d have something of their work set forth in this permanent recapitulation of the War Savings Movement.

No sooner was Mr.Lesh selected to head the orgaization for Wells County than he began to cast about for some one person in particular upon whom he could rely for counsel and material aid in his strenous duties. Mr.J.F.Decker,later Joint Senator from Wells, Adams and Blackford counties was selected for this position and to which he nobly responded.These two men ,Lesh and Decker, together with the executive committee for Wells County ,consisting of Mr. B.A.Batson,Postmaster,of Bluffton, Judge C.E.Sturgis,Chairman County Council of Defense ,P.A.Allen, Supt.of City Schools,A.R.Huyette, Supt.County Schools, Harry Gray, County Agent,and Mr.A.B.Cline, lumber merchant of the City,and Mr.R.S.Todd of the Studabaker Bank, at once planned their campaign and completed an organization such as was certain to forecast the results even before the campaign was under way.

Too much praise can not here as at every other turn of War activities be given to the undaunted spirit ,and sacrificing efforts of the young men of the county of draft age.Never were they called upon but they responded with all the energy of young American Manhood and never once in all the many trying times did theyfail to bring in the bacon"for Old Wells County. We shall not minimize the value of the wise counsel of the older men of the county who were as loyal as live on American soil,but it was the dash ,courage, vigor,and appeal of the patriotic young men that under the direction of those older in years but not in love of country that did the thing.

Each school district of the county was definitely organized, and each person connected with the local organizations was in closest touch with their township leader who in turn was always in communication with the county leaders# so that every station moved with clock like precision from the time first preliminary canvas through the taking of the complete county poll,the only one which was taken during the war to the final roll call meeting and final shout of victory as one by one the several townships reported "Over".

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

3
11

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

The work for the City of Bluffton was placed in the earnest and conscientious,hard working hands of Mr.John Hartle, who at once organized the City of Bluffton into Districts and made such a complete orgnization that it was not possible that any person should fail of opportunity,#o## to aid nor fail to see his duty in he matte This committee had set for it the Herculean task of getting pledges for $100000.00 in the City which work they completed on time with a fine and creditable surplus.

In the first drive for the sale of $62,000.00 the county went over with a rush, then came the call for the final drive in which every citizen of the county was to be asked to buy until it hurt". A complete poll of the county was taken by the Registered Young Men's Association,in which they name ,address,age, and occupation was secured.With this poll in the hands of the solicitors and official members of the organization it was possible that every person be visited and the duty as it appeared for him was put before him,and with pride let it be said that when all facts connected with the movement were once made plain the county could feel with# shame the presence of a very few persons indeed,who were not big enough at the time to see their patriotic duty.

The amount for the county was apportioned to the various townships and city upon the basis of population and final figures showed that Wells County had gone over with a surplus of over ##0#00 $10,000.00.Some townships went far beyond their quotas viz., Liberty Rockcreek and Jefferson,while all others did nobly.

The final drive was completed with the final roll-call meeting of all the citizens of the many schools districts each in a place selected on the night of June ##th.28th.,1918, at which time a general patriotic meeting was held and enjoyed by all who had by their labors and support contributed to the final grand success as was the case in almost every school district of the county.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

The following is a list of the officers of the organization county and township, on which ~~####~~ depended the results for the Drive

County---------- ,

O.E.Lesh, County Chairman,
J.F.Decker, County Superintendent.
Judge C.E.Sturgis, )
B.A.Batson, )
P.A.Allen )
A.R.Huyette )Executive Committee.
R.S.Todd. )
Harry Gray )
A.B.Cline. )

Jackson Township.
A.S.Tharp ,Chairman
W.S.Click Secretary.
District Leaders and Secretaries. First named is leader.
Wm.Sprowl, and Bascom R, Kidd.
Jesse J.Brown, and Volney Zent.
Floyd Riggs and W.C.Slusher.
Fred Williams and Amos Tharp.
Perry Fravel and James BOxell.
Orval Swaim and Virgil Ebert.
Ernest Adsit and Lewis Runion.
Frank Stinson and Clifford Griffith.
Carl Perdue and Andre w Hobbs.
Chas.Hyde and August Beavans.

Chester Township.
Orville Fisher ,Chairman.
Edward Cassell, Secretary.
Herman Goodin ,Chairman Registered Men's Association.
Alpha Grove ,Otis Starr.
Everett Carnes, Edward Cassell.
Win Noe, Wm.Huffman.
Bert Zehner, James Park.
Chas.Crosby, Oliver Tate.
Ray Carnes, Wm.Showalter.
Lester Baker, O.L.Lancaster.
Irman Williamson, Clem Rook.
Lawrence Perry and Herschel Gilbert.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

5

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

Liberty Township,

Alber Minniear, Chairman.
Harry Coolman, Secretary.
H.V.McElhaney, District Chairman Reg.Mem's Assoc.
Harry Reynolds, Oscar Thompson.
Wm.Reece, A.B.Merchant.
Guy Ware and David Coolman.
Walter Buckner and Lee Highlen.
H.V.McElhaney and James Frantz.
Chas.Kasler and James McCarty.
Robt.Lee and A.L.Musselman.
Clinton Popejoy and Herbert Smith.
Ora Heckman and Perry Mounsey.

Nottingham Township.
Wm.Borror, Township Chairman.
Frank Kirkwood, Secretary.
Frank Elston, Township Chairman Registered Men's Associati on.
Earl French , leader Dist No.1.
Wm.Caves
Frank Haines
Orval Romey
Forrest Hullinger.
Edward Lockwood.
Job Borror.
Hugh Gehrett.
Ernest Fisher.
Ray Uptegraft.
Chas Uptegraft.
Victor ~~Sharp~~ Sharpe.

Rockcreek Township.
Robt.S.Gordon, Chairman.
James Waid, Secretary.
George Farling, Chairman Registered Men's Association.
Dwight Lesh, Vice Chairman.
Howard Gilbert, Secretary.
Claude Brickley and Arthur Lockwood.
Lemon Haflick and Geo.Alshouse.
Grover Redding and Jessie Duncan.
Earl Gordon and Frank Fishbaugh.
Joseph Lesh and Alva Lesh.
Charles Smeltzer and Homer Bayless.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

Harvey Inskeep and Vern Gordon.
Homer Brumbaugh and H.L.Miller.
Howard Gordon and Charles Roth.

Union Township Officers.
H,W.Lipkey, Chairman.
Cliff Lipkey,Secretary.
Irel Pence Chairman,Registered Men's Assoc.
Chase Farrar and Dell Wickliffe.
Otis Line and J.P.Corll.
Tom Chaney and Melvin Walters.
Chas.Cass and Chas.Jones.
Chas.Tharp and Chas.Fahl.
Ross Newhard and Frank Smith.
Claud Crow and Ed Brumbaugh.
Cliff Taylor and Clarkson Lantis.
George Gilbert and Cliff Lipkey.

Jefferson Township.
Dr.E.W.Dyer, Chairman.
Albert A.Melching.
Burr I.Simmerman, Chairman Registered Men's Association.
Chas.Yarger and Zerna Beck.
Ned Glass and Arthur Lechner.
Elza Springer and George Hilsmier.
Homer Robbs and Eldon Bailey.
Forest Cotton and William Osborn.
Harry Somers and Gerald Beatty.
Wentz Donaghy and Anson Buck.
Harrold Archibold and Williard Melching.
Rudolph Werling and Clem Simmerman.
Ira Hoover and Irvin Wasson.
Theo.Werling and Keith R.Smith.
Hugh Deam and Harry Worman.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

Lancaster Township Officers.
Barney Rupright, Chairman.
N. J. Kleinknight Secretary.
Herman Swartz, Chairman of Registered Men's Association.
Lantz Wasson and N.J.Kleinknight.
Ralph Pursley and Jess Dailey.
Jess Dougherty and Clem Wasson.
Harry Harvey and John Baumgardner.
Ross Niblick and David Powell.
Alfred Wisner and R.C.Stewart.
Chas.Duncan and Alex Hunt.
Lewis Nordyke and C.V.Pierce.
Coulson McAfee and T.J.Brickley.
John W,Meyer and John H.Meyer.
Claude Davenport and Rev.C.T.Payne.
Oral Heckley and Foss Mullikin.

Harrison Township Officers.
J. N. Neff, Chairman.
~~Secretary.~~
Noble C.Blocher, Chairman Registered Men.
Adam Meyer and Samuel Aschleman.
Irvin Shoemaker and Harry Klopfenstine.
Earl Markley and Brent Chalfant.
Harry Johnson and George Arnold.
Fred Liniger and Roland Heche.
Frank Clark and Geo.Hauk.
Harry Chalfant and William Ashbaucher.
C.D.Hedges and Alfred Rudy.
Fred Grandlinard and Herman Breiniger.
Thurman Gottschalk and Earl Higgins.
Ray Linn and Chas.Elston.
Edson Neff and Iva Rush.

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 210
Residence Phone 469

W.S. 118

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY HON. W. G. McADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE
FRANK A. VANDERLIP
CHAIRMAN
CHARLES L. BAINE
MRS. GEORGE BASS
FREDERIC A. DELANO
HENRY FORD
EUGENE MEYER, JR.

FEDERAL DIRECTORS
EDGAR C. BRADLEY
FRED W. FLEMING
JOHN F. HARRIS
J. D. LYON
OTTO MARX
HARRISON B. RILEY

9.

the
In closing this resume of War Savings Campaign, for Wells County, the writer wishes again to pay tribute to the American soldier who by the very nature of the governments plan of Army organization was not only permitted but required to remain at home and there do his part in the winning of the World Struggle by heroic selfsacrificing, patriotic labors as they came to him, and which never came but that they found him ready to work whether it be in hours of the night or heat of noon-day sun. In this campaign as well as in all other drives during the entire war it was on the shoulders of the young man that the actual canvas fell heaviest, though never regarded by them as a burden, so once again we cry All Hail the American Soldier whether at home or abroad, the ~~savior~~ defender and protector of the American fireside, and liberties of the world.

O. E. Lesh
County Chairman.
Wells County

Office Days
Monday and Saturday

Office Phone 216
Residence Phone 469

Office of
Superintendent of Schools
Wells County
A. R. Huyette, Superintendent
Bluffton, Indiana

The Part the Rural Schools Played in the

W O R L D  W A R .

Schools were not in session on April 6, 1917 when The U. S. declared war against Germany; so Wells County, previous to the war, had a majority of men teachers in the rural schools. The conscription law soon broke into their ranks and by the time schools opened in September, we found that sixteen splendid young men from our past year's teaching force were now in service.

Teachers and pupils during the year 1917 - 1918 were ever ready to assist in the cause of Liberty and Democracy were eager at all times to " do their bit" to bring the war to a successful close.

The schools were asked to observe meatless and wheatless days during the winter of 1917-1918 ; in order to save fuel the pupils assisted in taging the shovels in the homes ; all this was done in the proper spirit and each little tot felt that he or she had a part in the winning of the war.

In the matter of purchasing thrift stamps the pupils played an important part, and often told how hard they had worked and sacrificed in order to purchase a stamp and a number of thrift stamps soon purchased a thrift certificate .

Plans were made for the taking of the census of hogs and cattle, but on account of the closing of the war this work was not completed .

Early in November 1918 it was planned to organize Boys and Girls Victory Clubs; boys and girls were asked to earn, save , and contribute from one dollar to five dollars to assist Seven organizations to ~~administer~~ to the welfare of our boys " Over There"; Patriotism ran high as this matter was presented to the young Americans of our schools and they were eager to respond to the call. Two thousand dollars was subscribed to this fund by the pupils of Wells County .

It was a difficult task to find enough teachers to supply the schools; teachers not in the conscription age frequently decided to take military training; teachers who had not been teaching for several years again returned to teaching to assist the school work. With everything considered it is gratifying to know that the schools of Wells County did her full part in putting down Autocracy and planting Liberty, and Democracy so deeply that the severest storms can not uproot them.

A R Huyette, Co. Supt. Schools.
Wells Co, Indiana.

GOV. JAMES P. GOODRICH
PRESIDENT
FRANK B. WYNN
VICE-PRESIDENT
HARLOW LINDLEY
SECRETARY
JAMES A. WOODBURN

# Indiana Historical Commission

STATE HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

## WAR HISTORY RECORDS

JOHN W. OLIVER, DIRECTOR
LUCY M. ELLIOTT, ASSISTANT

CHARLES W. MOORES
SAMUEL M. FOSTER
MATTHEW J. WALSH
CHARITY DYE
LEW M. O'BANNON

Wells
alive
Ossian

August 18th, 1920

Next of Kin
Emerson White,
Ossian, Ind.

Dear Sir or Madam:

The name of Emerson White has been given to this Commission as one who is entitled to be placed on the Gold Star List of Wells County; if this be true, he is also entitled to be included in the Gold Star Memorial Volume, which the state is preparing for publication. This volume will contain a picture, and a short biographical sketch of each boy who lost his life in the World War.

We are enclosing herewith a questionnaire, which we should like for you to fill out in full, and return to us at once together with picture, if you wish this soldier's name to be included in this volume. Please do not delay sending questionnaire and picture as the time is limited for using this material.

Very sincerely

Lucy M. Elliott

Assistant Director.

OFR

Sept 5 1920

This letter was delayed in reaching me as I have changed my address three times in the last six months. But am now very much alive. Was recently ~~returned~~ mustered in service and am now living at 3417 Pigua Ave Ft Wayne Indiana

Frank Emerson White